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TAGS: PGOV PREL YI BE
SUBJECT: KOSOVO STATUS

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B. STATE 165486

Classified By: POLCOUNS TED ANDREWS. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

(C) Embassy spoke December 11 with Thomas Antoine, the Belgian MFA's Director for the Balkans, on Kosovo's status now that recent negotiations had concluded (reftels). Antoine said the U.S. and Belgium were "on the same page" in terms of next steps forward, and that Belgan FM DeGucht had indicated the same to Secretary Rice in Brussels, while noting not all EU members were in line. Antoine said an independent Kosovo was now paramount for a stable and prosperous region and that Belgium would "do its best to assuage the Serbs." He thought a "declaration" from the UN Secretary General in support of Ahtisarri's plan and inviting an ESDP mission would be helpful.

FOX

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